



The 2010 outstanding science teachers recognition included Lt. Gov. Brad Little, left; teachers Angela Henningway, Chris Taylor, Jennifer Martin, Dennis Kimberling, Karlicia Berry, Edward Katz; Superintendent Tom Luna and keynote speaker Vern Porter.

INL helps honor Idaho science teachers as GIANTS

By [Marilyn Whitney](#), INL Communications & Governmental Affairs

Gifted, passionate, visionary and dedicated — those are just a few of the terms students, parents and administrators used to describe the six Idaho teachers who were recently recognized with the 2010 Governor's Industry Award for Notable Teaching in Science (GIANTS).

Recipients are nominated by student council or parent groups for their efforts to make science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) challenging, relevant and fun, and to link industry to the classroom. Cash awards of \$2,000 go to recipients at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Teachers receive \$500 for an honorable mention; the nominating schools also receive prize money.

The GIANTS program was initiated by the Office of the Governor in 2001 and is sponsored by a group of industry leaders including Idaho National Laboratory, the Micron Foundation, URS, Hewlett-Packard, LCF Enterprises and Idaho Power Company with support from the State Department of Education and State Board of Education, as well as the Discovery Center of Idaho.

This year's elementary school GIANTS awardee was Karlicia Minto Berry, a teacher at Ponderosa Elementary School in Post Falls.



State Schools
Superintendent Tom Luna thanks Tell Hyer for nominating this year's GIANTS middle school winner Jennifer Martin.



Homedale's Martin, with Lt. Gov. Brad Little, after receiving the GIANTS award at a ceremony at the Idaho governor's office.

"Ms. Berry has shown me that STEM will help me in many ways," 10-year old Sonya Fernandes said in her nomination. "First, that STEM will open many doors for my future. Second, I can help other people with my ideas and creative solutions."

During a ceremony in the Governor's office, Lt. Gov. Brad Little and Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna presented plaques and cash awards to Berry, Kuna High School teacher Angela Hemmingway, Bonners Ferry High School teacher Edward Katz and Homedale Middle School teacher Jennifer Martin.

Honorable Mention awards were presented to Dennis Kimberling of Rathdrum's Lakeland Junior High School and Chris Taylor of Boise's Liberty Elementary.

Several students and parents attended the award ceremony to acknowledge the recipients. Homedale student Tell Hyer accompanied Martin to Boise.

"All of us are hoping that Mrs. Martin wins this award," Hyer and his classmates said in their nominating letter, "because we're pretty sure that not many 8th graders in small rural towns like Homedale get to experience all that we have with science. Mrs. Martin rocks!"

Jessica Gresl, Kuna High School's Associated Student Body secretary, illustrated how recipients such as Kuna's Hemmingway also are notable for their efforts outside the classroom.

"She challenges her students inside the classroom with high expectations and outside the classroom with volunteer opportunities and required participation in science competitions," Gresl said.

Hemmingway coaches the school's Science Olympiad, INL Scholastic Tournament and FIRST Tech Challenge Robotics teams. The results are impressive — Kuna's Science Club boasts nearly 100 student members.

Similarly, Bonners Ferry High School's Katz has engaged students in



GIANTS outstanding high



Kuna High School students attended the GIANTS award ceremony and luncheon to honor biology teacher Angela Hemingway.

the FIRST robotics program, taking his team to regional and national competitions and on trips to Massachusetts Institute of Technology and NASA facilities. Katz also engages industry partners who visit his classroom to help students make connections to the real world. ***school teacher Ed Katz, receiving his award from Lt. Gov. Brad Little.***

This year, a mechanical engineer from MIT met with Katz's chemistry classes to discuss her research on lithium cell batteries. And two civil engineers from Cabinet Mountain Water visited Katz's chemistry and physics classes to discuss how they use applied physics and chemistry in their jobs.

In addition to the cash awards, GIANTS recipients each receive a lifetime membership to the [Discovery Center of Idaho](#) and a \$200 gift certificate for classroom materials.

Read the [Governor's news release](#).

Read news coverage of the awards in the:

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